

Edwards Supports Bill Extending Texas Sales Tax Deduction, Tax Cuts for Renewable Energy, Education, Families, and Business

(WASHINGTON) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards today supported House passage of the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act to help expand the production and use of renewable energy, provide tax relief to middle class families and businesses, and allow Texas taxpayers to continue to deduct local and state sales taxes from their federal income taxes. The bill was approved by the House 263 to 160 and will now be sent to the Senate.

“This legislation makes the right investments in the renewable energy sources of the future, encourages businesses to invest in research and develop new products, and provides tax relief for hard-working Texas families,” said Edwards.

Congressman Edwards worked on a bipartisan basis in 2004 to reinstate the sales tax deduction provision for Texas taxpayers. H.R. 6049 extends that sales tax deduction, which could be worth several hundred dollars for a family of four that itemizes deductions on its federal tax return.

“The principle behind making sales taxes deductible is simple – the federal government has no business penalizing taxpayers in states like Texas that choose to use a state sales tax instead of an income tax,” said Edwards.

The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act would also increase the production of renewable fuels and renewable electricity, and encourage greater energy efficiency. It extends and expands tax incentives for renewable electricity, energy and fuel, as well as for plug-in hybrid cars, and energy efficient homes, buildings, and appliances. Failing to extend some of these provisions could lead to about 116,000 jobs being lost in the wind and solar industries through the end of 2009 according to a recent study.

The legislation also supports businesses and provides tax relief to millions of American families. The bill extends the research and development tax credit to spur American innovation and business investment and cuts taxes for millions of Americans, including teachers, college students and families in states with no income tax. The bill would expand eligibility for the \$1,000 refundable child tax credit and provide tax relief to homeowners who do not itemize their deductions by permitting them to deduct up to \$700 of property taxes in addition to their standard deduction.

“Middle class tax cuts like these will help create hundreds of thousands of good-paying American job while also promoting renewable energy sources that lessen our dependence on foreign oil and protect our environment,” said Edwards.